

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

No 102

SLSA

SPRING 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

www.slsa.ac.uk @slsa_uk



SLSA PORTSMOUTH

From 26–28 March delegates will be gathering in historic Portsmouth for SLSA 2024.

More than 650 abstracts have been accepted across 32 streams and this year's six current topics: 'New frontiers in legal consciousness studies'; 'Armed conflict, justice and the law'; 'Law and political economy'; 'Populism, courts and social change'; 'Law, machine, and creativity: socio-legal implications of regulating generative AI'; and 'Em(body)ing the law'.

On Tuesday morning, the SLSA PGR reps will host a busy postgraduate researcher programme with three sessions including one on interdisciplinary research presented by colleagues from Portsmouth Law School (see page 4).

The main conference will open on Tuesday with registration and lunch followed by two afternoon sessions. The afternoon will be rounded off with a plenary entitled 'Shaping the future of legal education: integrating socio-legal approaches in the changing landscape'. This plenary is co-sponsored by the Association of Law Teachers. It will be chaired by Professor Caroline Strevens and speakers include Professor Chris Ashford, Dr Emma Jones, Dr Suhraiya Jivraj and Professor Foluke Adebisi. In the evening the drinks reception will take place at the University of Portsmouth Students Union which is located a short walk from Gunwharf Quays, a waterfront retail and leisure venue which boasts 30 restaurants and bars.

We warmly welcome delegates observing Ramadan during the conference. There will be a prayer room (with running water available nearby) and food-free social space at the venue.

The second day of the conference has four sessions featuring panels from many of the streams and current topics. The annual PGR poster presentation and judging will take place mid-morning and there is a lunchtime event on Impact Awareness organised by the SLSA Impact

Committee, including contributions from the Nuffield Foundation and the Law Commission. The second plenary, sponsored by the *Modern Law Review*, will follow the afternoon sessions. This plenary, developed with the support of the Council for at Risk Academics, is entitled, 'Migrant scholars: the past, present, and future of socio-legal studies'. Further details of this important event are provided elsewhere in this newsletter (see page 4).

Day two finishes with the conference dinner and prize-giving held in Portsmouth Guildhall. The conference dinner will be served after Iftar. The conference will draw to a close on Thursday with two final sessions.

In addition, the university has scheduled two climbing sessions at its state-of-the-art Ravelin Sports Centre for attendees to try climbing and bouldering (subject to sufficient uptake). The sessions will be on 26 March 11:30–13:00 and 28 March 13:00–14:30, tickets on sale via the University of Portsmouth Online Store. Delegates can also purchase a day pass at the front desk for only £10.50 and get access to the gym, swimming pool, sauna and steam rooms, and fitness classes.

Portsmouth is accessible by rail, car, bus, coach, plane and ferry. The website contains details of all major travel routes. Accommodation is not included in the conference package, but the website has details of hotels, some with preferential rates. Portsmouth is a compact city and all conference venues are easily accessible from the university. For delegates with spare time, it's worth exploring our naval history by visiting the Mary Rose Museum (home to Henry VIII's favourite ship) or, for those with an interest in literature, the Charles Dickens Museum, or perhaps just finding the time for a quiet walk along the beach.

See [w website](#) for full details. Registration closes: **11 March 2024.**

The Conference Team e slsa2024@port.ac.uk

Future SLSA Annual Conferences

- University of Liverpool, 15–17 April 2025
- University of Sussex, dates tbc 2026.

SLSA contact details

Socio-Legal Newsletter

Editor: Marie Selwood t 01227 770189

e marieselwood@btinternet.com

Next copy deadline: 20 May 2024

Next publication date: 24 June 2024

SLSA admin

For applications for and queries about all prizes, competitions and funding schemes: e admin@slsa.ac.uk

SLSA online

Webeditor: Marie Selwood e marieselwood@btinternet.com

Social Media Officer: Elisabeth Griffiths
e elizabeth.griffiths@northumbria.ac.uk

Blogeditor: Emma Jones
e blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk

PG Reps: Lara MacLachlan & Mini Saxena
e slsaprep@gmail.com

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John Harrington
Cardiff University
e harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk

VICE CHAIR

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Edinburgh University
e smita.kheria@ed.ac.uk

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Durham University
e emma.milne@durham.ac.uk

TREASURER

Philip Bremner
King's College London
e philip.2.bremner@kcl.ac.uk

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Colin Moore
Essex University
e c.r.moore@essex.ac.uk

TRUSTEES

Anna Bryson
Queen's University Belfast
e a.bryson@qub.ac.uk

Marie Burton
CSLS, University of Oxford
e marie.burton@csls.ox.ac.uk

Beverley Clough (Stream Secretary)
University of Leeds
e b.clough@leeds.ac.uk

Richard Craven
Sheffield University
e richard.craven@sheffield.ac.uk

Simon Flacks (Seminar Committee Chair)
University of Sussex
e s.flacks@sussex.ac.uk

Sabrina Germain
City University of London
e sabrina.germain@city.ac.uk

Alex Green
University of York
e alex.green@york.ac.uk

Elisabeth Griffiths (Social Media Officer)
Northumbria University
e elisabeth.griffiths@northumbria.ac.uk

Matthew Howard
Kent University
e m.howard@kent.ac.uk

Marie Hutton
University of Sheffield
e m.a.hutton@sheffield.ac.uk

Emma Jones (Publisher Liaison & Blogeditor)
University of Sheffield
e emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk

Kay Lalor
Manchester Metropolitan University
e k.lalor@mmu.ac.uk

Kirsten McConnachie
University of East Anglia
e k.mcconnachie@uea.ac.uk

Rebecca Moosavian (Recruitment Secretary & Grants Committee Chair)
University of Leeds
e r.z.moosavian@leeds.ac.uk

Raza Saeed
Warwick University
e raza.saeed@warwick.ac.uk

Mitchell Travis
University of Leeds
e m.travis@leeds.ac.uk

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Daniel Bedford
University of Portsmouth (2024 Conference Organiser)
e daniel.bedford@port.ac.uk

Ciara Fitzpatrick (2023 Conference Organiser)
Ulster University
e c.fitzpatrick@ulster.ac.uk

Arwen Joyce (Precarity Rep)
University of Leicester
e arwen.joyce@le.ac.uk

Lara MacLachlan (PGR Rep)
University of Liverpool
e lara.maclachlan@liverpool.ac.uk

Mini Saxena (PGR Rep)
SOAS University of London
e ms194@soas.ac.uk

Marie Selwood (Newsletter, ebulletin and Webeditor)
e marieselwood@btinternet.com

Mark Simpson (2023 Conference Organiser)
Ulster University
e m.simpson@ulster.ac.uk

Emily Walsh
University of Portsmouth (2024 Conference Organiser)
e emily.walsh@port.ac.uk

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Newsletter sponsorship

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools and journals. We are very grateful for this essential support for our community. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, contact SLSA Chair, John Harrington: e harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk.



LAWS



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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



SLSA BOARD NEWS

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on 27 March 2024, 13:00–14:00, at the University of Portsmouth and online.

All members are warmly invited to attend. Documents and online joining details will be circulated nearer the time via the SLSA email list to members.

Changes to the Board

At the AGM, Sabrina Germain will be stepping down after three years as a trustee. Warm thanks are due to Sabrina for her work during that time, including serving on the Impact and EDI Committees during a time of growth and development in these activities.

Six other trustees are coming to the end of their first three-year terms at the AGM and will be standing for re-election.

At the AGM there will **two** vacancies arising on the SLSA Board. These will be filled at the meeting by election among SLSA members.

The SLSA and its Board are enriched by and value the diversity of our community. We welcome inquiries and nominations from socio-legal scholars of all backgrounds, working at all institutions, and regardless of specific employment status. The SLSA is committed to the values of equality, diversity and inclusivity and strives to ensure these principles are reflected in its policy, practice and governance.

This year we would especially welcome applications from members with an interest and some skills in qualitative data analysis, which is central to achieving our equality, diversity and inclusivity strategy, and/or in curating and editing YouTube videos, which showcase the work and achievements of our community.

Further information about SLSA governance can be found [here](#). We have also created an information pack for members who are interested in becoming trustees. This contains advice on the opportunities and responsibilities which go with the role and is available [here](#).

The deadline for nominations is **6 March 2024 at 17:00**. Please email your nomination statement to emma.milne@durham.ac.uk.

SLSA SHORTLISTS 2024

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce the shortlists for our prestigious annual book, article and impact prizes. The prizewinners will be announced at the SLSA Annual Dinner which is hosted this year by the University of Portsmouth.

Hart–SLSA Book Prize

- Başak Ertür, *Spectacles and Specters: A Performative Theory of Political Trials* (2022) Fordham University Press
- Oreva Olakpe, *South-South Migrations and the Law from Below: Case Studies on China and Nigeria* (2023) Hart Publishing
- Sally Sheldon, Gayle Davies, Jane O'Neill & Clare Parker, *The Abortion Act 1967: A Biography of a UK Law* (2022) Cambridge University Press

Hart–SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics

- Priyasha Saxena, *Sovereignty, International Law, and the Princely States of Colonial South Asia* (2023) Oxford University Press
- Jess Smith, *Law, Registration, and the State: Making Identities through Space, Place, and Movement* (2023) Routledge

Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize

- Başak Ertür, *Spectacles and Specters: A Performative Theory of Political Trials* (2022) Fordham University Press
- Toby Seddon, *Rethinking Drug Laws: Theory, History, Politics* (2023) Oxford University Press
- Sally Sheldon, Gayle Davies, Jane O'Neill & Clare Parker, *The Abortion Act 1967: A Biography of a UK Law* (2022) Cambridge University Press

SLSA Article Prize

- Fatima Ahdash, 'Countering terrorism in the family courts: a dangerous development' (2023) *Modern Law Review* 86(5): 1197–123

- Robert Jones & Gregory Davies, 'Prisoner voting in the United Kingdom: an empirical study of a contested prisoner right' (2023) *Modern Law Review* 86(4) 900–926
- Yüksel Sezgin, 'Undignified jurisprudence: Muslim family law at Ghanaian courts' (2023) *Law and Social Inquiry* 48(4): 1303–1333

SLSA Impact Prize

- Seán Columb, University of Liverpool, 'Exposing the organ trade: seeking truth in violence'
- Melanie Klinker, Bournemouth University, 'Protection, investigation and justice efforts in relation to mass graves'
- Carin Tunåker, University of Kent, & Helen Carr, University of Southampton, 'Homelessness in the countryside: a hidden crisis'

SLSA SEMINARS 2024

The SLSA Board has announced the winners of this year's Seminar Competition. Eight events will be taking place over the coming months.

- Róisín Á Costello, Trinity College Dublin, £1000: 'Representing minority language voices in court'
- Neil Graffin, Open University, & Sarah Craig, University of Ulster, £800: 'Contemporary challenges to migration'
- Nora Jaber, University of Exeter, £1000: 'The juridification of justice: potentials and limitations'
- Colin M Luoma, Brunel University, £985.58: 'Climate change mitigation and human rights'
- Catherine O'Rourke, Durham University, £980: 'Law and global justice: research centres without a research field?'
- Andrea Maria Pelliconi, City University of London, £999.85: 'Climate change and migration: new challenges, legal responses, and policy solutions'
- Sahar Shar, University of Bristol, £996: 'Calculating climate reparations: legal perspectives'

The next round opens in the autumn. To find out more, see [w website](#).

MIGRANT SCHOLARS: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SOCIO- LEGAL STUDIES

*This SLSA 2024 Plenary – organised in collaboration with the **Modern Law Review** and **Council for At Risk Academics** (CARA) – will take place on 27 March 2024 at 17:45–18:45.*

CARA was founded in 1933 as the Academic Assistance Council, in response to the persecution of German Jewish scholars and others opposed to the National Socialist regime. Building on its early work, it has since then sustained a programme of support for academics in all disciplines affected by conflict or oppression in their countries of origin, whether remaining there or moving to another country. Working with 112 UK universities, CARA currently supports six at-risk scholars researching law, and 15 fellows in closely related social sciences.

At this plenary, three CARA Fellows will speak to their own experiences, intellectual and professional, in moving to the UK, their sense of socio-legal studies in a networked, global context, and draw comparisons with scholarship in their home countries and regions of origin.

The founding and early development of the *Modern Law Review*, our plenary sponsor, was significantly influenced

by emigré German Jewish scholars, most notably Otto Kahn-Freund, a pioneer in labour law, comparative law and family law. His training in code-based legal systems and patterns of reasoning, engagement with Weimar scholarship on the post-liberal ‘materialisation’ of law, and experience as a labour court judge in times of political contestation equipped him to challenge the insular and heavily doctrinal approach to legal scholarship dominant in the UK at the time.

This plenary constitutes an important moment in the realisation of the SLSA’s **internationalisation strategy** which is informed by the need to support scholars at all levels – but particularly those in the earlier stages of their careers – to build and sustain networks, given the greater precarity of links to the European mainland and the Global South resulting from macro-level developments. The Board has invested substantially in an internationalisation fund to enable UK-based scholars to initiate links with peers in other countries, while also establishing **strategic partnerships** with other associations (eg VSR Belgium/Netherlands,* Asian Law and Society Association, Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand) to enable reciprocal participation of PGRs and ECRs in training events and conferences.

John Harrington, SLSA Chair

** See page 6 for a report of the most recent collaboration between the SLSA and the VSR offering discounted places for PGRs.*

PGR ACTIVITIES AT PORTSMOUTH 2024

We are excited to welcome you to the SLSA Annual Conference 2024. As your PGR Reps, we are particularly looking forward to the dedicated PGR Activities on the first morning: 26 March 2024. They are the perfect opportunity to meet other PGRs and get to know some friendly faces before the main conference kicks off. We look forward to meeting you all!

We have organised a range of sessions which we hope will be helpful for you. The sessions aim to support the development of skills and understanding to aid you in your academic journey. The PGR Activities are a warm and welcoming environment and we will have short breaks between the sessions to allow us all to mingle and get to know each other better.

Firstly, we have a session on ‘Researching in different contexts’. Lyla Latif (ECR, Warwick Law School) and Mini Saxena (SOAS University of London) will talk about their experiences of conducting research in and on sub-Saharan Africa and India. The practical elements of conducting research are often the most challenging aspects for PGRs to prepare for. Different cultures and contexts have very different experiences and expectations with research. We hope this session provides you with some tools to equip you for conducting your own fieldwork, as well as insights into our role as researchers.

The second session will focus on interdisciplinary research. As socio-legal scholars, we all have some level of familiarity with working across disciplines. There are unique challenges and benefits to trying to combine the intellectual worlds of different disciplines, which often have diverse origins and orientations. This session will be run by our wonderful colleagues at the University of

Portsmouth and will include Dr Caroline Cox (Professor in Wildlife Crime and Policy), Ms Sarah Atkins (Senior Lecturer in Law), Dr Tonny Kirabira (Senior Teaching Fellow at the School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature) and Sarah Groszewski (Postgraduate Researcher in Law). The speakers will draw on their own experiences of working between a variety of disciplines and hope to provide insight and advice to our PGR community.

The final session is by Professor Gina Heathcote from the University of Newcastle and will focus on the process of becoming an academic writer. Many of us in academia struggle with writing in some shape or form. The session aims to be helpful for students at any point in the doctoral journey and will discuss practical tips on how to address writer’s block, structuring your PhD, embracing incompleteness and organising your time. Gina will also offer tips on good academic writing practice.

Lara Maclachlan & Mini Saxena (SLSA PGR Reps)

What’s new on the SLSA Blog?

- **Fantasy Legal Exhibitions Workshop**, Amanda Perry-Kessaris & Victoria Barnes
- **We will never get rid of ‘rape myths’ until we get to grips with the ways they influence legal reasoning and decision-making**, Joanne Conaghan & Yvette Russell
- **The converted conference attendee**, Katrina Whale
- **‘Domestic abuse service providers and their stories’: an ongoing ESRC-funded project via the Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre’s ECR Development Fund – May 2023 – April 2024**, Rebecca Shaw

SLSA PGR CONFERENCE 2024, NORTHUMBRIA

We were delighted to make the acquaintance of so many delegates at the 2024 SLSA Annual PGR Conference at Northumbria University, Newcastle, from 11 to 12 January.

The event consisted of six sessions over two days, each aimed at imparting skills specifically useful to PGRs conducting socio-legal research on their doctoral journey. There were also plenty of opportunities for delegates to meet and informally network over drinks and meals!

Delegates attended sessions in two groups of 25 each. The first day consisted of three sessions. The first, entitled 'Life cycle of a PhD' was conducted by Dr Claire Bessant and Dr Malvika Unnithan from Northumbria University, as well as our very own PGR Rep, Lara Maclachlan. Participants found it useful to listen to three quite varied and diverse experiences of a doctoral journey, including perspectives around pursuing the PhD part-time, with caring responsibilities etc. The next session, 'Getting published' was led by Professors Vanessa Munro and Dave Cowan. It focused on eliciting from delegates their own concerns around getting published – the timeline and the requirements as well as more substantive questions around journals focusing on socio-legal research and how the editorial process works. Dave and Vanessa really helped to simplify the process and offered useful tips and tricks to demystify the sometimes frightening process of publication. Finally, 'The supervisory relationship and wellbeing' focused on one of the most important aspects of a doctoral journey – one's supervisor(s). The session was facilitated by Dr Kat Langley from the University of Sunderland and our other PGR Rep, Mini Saxena. It led delegates through an exercise focusing on the split of responsibilities between supervisor and student and then, using online technology, allowed delegates to foreground both problems and positive aspects of their own supervisory relationships, working together with the rest of the room to find solutions. It helped reassure delegates that they are not alone in their supervisory hiccups!

The second day consisted of three more incredibly useful and insightful sessions. The first, 'Ethics and the PhD' was conducted by Dr Elisabeth Griffiths and Dr Anna Tsalapatnis. They reiterated the importance of ethics not just as a compliance or box-ticking exercise, but, in fact, as a consideration throughout the entire doctoral journey, especially for those conducting socio-legal research. They went through the various stages during which ethics becomes important, for instance when dealing with children or vulnerable populations as participants, as well as when finalising the thesis to ensure participants have been represented accurately and authentically. The following session, 'Presenting your research' was led by Dr Laura Graham and Dr Hannah Wishart. Laura and Hannah provided a comprehensive view of the various different formats for presenting research – right from posters and *pecha kucha* presentations to full-length conference papers, giving examples of each format. It was particularly useful to see the differences between posters in the legal and scientific fields, drawing on Hannah's background in STEM. Delegates also engaged in a short exercise in which they had to present each other's research in one minute! The last session, 'Getting your first academic job' delved into the nitty-gritties of the academic labour market. It was facilitated by Dr Clare James and Professor Chris Ashford. Clare drew on her recent experience with

applications and interviews, and Chris spoke at length about REF and postdoctoral positions. Delegates had many questions about this sometimes opaque process, which Clare and Chris answered masterfully and skilfully.

Despite the jam-packed schedule, delegates were engaged and involved across the two days, and came away with the feeling of being in a friendly and supportive socio-legal research community! This was reflected in the feedback we received after the event:

The conference was a source of inspiration. I found resonance in the narratives of experienced researchers who generously shared their academic trajectories, offering valuable advice and demystifying the challenges often faced by postgraduate researchers.

Learning about the common process and obstacles of PhDs, along with practical advice for navigating them, was incredibly valuable. However, the absolute highlight was the opportunity to meet and connect with colleagues from other universities. The welcoming and supportive atmosphere of the SLSA event made it fantastic for building connections with other PGRs and learning about their research approaches. In fact, I met three colleagues with similar interests, and we're already planning an online meeting to share readings and ideas.

The SLSA would like to extend a huge thank-you to all of the speakers for giving us their time and contributing to making the event so successful! In particular, we would like to thank the organising team at Northumbria University, especially Laura Graham and SLSA Board member Elisabeth Griffiths, for their tireless work behind the scenes. We are also grateful to all the conference delegates for their wonderful and engaged contributions throughout both days.

We look forward to seeing you all the SLSA Annual Conference at the University of Portsmouth in March!

Lara Maclachlan & Mini Saxena (SLSA PGR Reps)

SLSA CALENDAR 2024

March

- 6 Nominations to SLSA Board: closing date – see page 3
- 11 **SLSA 2024** registration closes
- 26–28 **SLSA 2024**, University of Portsmouth
- 27 SLSA AGM, Annual Dinner and announcement of prizewinners

May

- 9 **SLSA Seminar: From the University to the Grand Chamber**, London
- 16 SLSA Board meeting
- 20 SLN 103 copy deadline
- 31 **SLSA Impact Grants**: closing date

June

- 24 SLN 103 publication

July

- 12 Final weekly ebuletin of summer term

September

- 2 **SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community**: closing date

October

- 7 **SLSA book and article prizes**: closing date

VSR PhD SCHOOL UTRECHT 2024

This vibrant two-day international event took place on 16 and 17 January 2024 at the University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht. Doctoral researcher Millie Prosser, SOAS, University of London, attended and shares her impressions.

For the second year running the **Dutch Academy for Empirical Legal Studies** (ELS) and the **Dutch and Flemish Law and Society Association** (VSR) collaborated with the SLSA to offer five discounted places at their annual PhD school to SLSA postgraduate students. The PhD school comprised a series of workshops and talks, spanning two full days and coincided with the VSR's full Annual Conference, also held in Utrecht on 18 and 19 January, at which multiple PhD school attendees went on to present, including two SLSA PhD researchers.

The theme of the PhD School was academia 'inside out'. More than 35 international researchers gathered on the first day to listen to a fascinating keynote from Professor Ashley Terlouw, Radboud University. Her speech focused on 'bridging the gap' between science and politics, a deep and familiar chasm which she has navigated throughout her esteemed career as both a legal scholar and sociologist. She explained how conflicting perceptions of fallibility maintained this 'gap' – where scientists see fallibility, doubt, and careful critique as crucial, politicians often see them as weakness. And so, when attempting to package our research into bitesize chunks for a policy audience, she urged us to remember the illusion of value-free science and be mindful of the facts we present to the world as well as the value we ascribe to them. She went on to reflect honestly about her research for the Dutch Government, offering invaluable insights about protecting her integrity as a researcher by drawing bright lines around commissioned work that did not align with her values or her skillset.

After such a timely keynote, the remainder of day one consisted of two parallel streams of workshops across two sessions concentrating on 'inside' academia, which were predominantly methodology-based. The first comprised 'The art of interviewing' by Anne Janssen and Iris Sportel, 'Surveys I: when and how?' by Aylin Aydin Cakir, 'Experiments' by Pieter Desmet and a session considering empirical research 'Beyond traditional legal methodology' by Nawal Mustafa. Attendees were positive about the

value of the practical methods workshops which offered concrete insights to inform their empirical research. I was particularly impressed with Nawal's session in which she explained her use of archival, film and media evidence within a decolonial framework in her work on interracial romantic relationships in Britain (between 1948–1968). She offered a crucial insight into how innovative socio-legal research can make invisible power dynamics, inherent to the law, visible.

The format worked well, allowing for small discussion groups and mixing. The afternoon slots were 'Interviews II: from data to findings' by Iris Sportel, 'Surveys II: collection and analysis' by Aylin Aydin Cakir and 'The interplay between empirical findings and normative law' by Vincent Geeraets. Vincent's workshop was particularly well attended and set out three intriguing domains of legal normativity – expediency, justice and decency – to better consider and critique how the law is used.

The second day opened with another instructive and insightful keynote from Professor Barbara Oomen in which she embellished 10 'words of wisdom' with entertaining stories from her inspiring career. These were: reach out; networking is always worthwhile; engage with theory (and the people behind it); seek out company in writing; learn to manage yourself; teach; engage with the wider world; have a life; the best dissertation is a done dissertation; and share your project. She ended with her now infamous advice to 'always stay for drinks!'

True to the theme, day two workshops looked 'out' of academia at 'Work-life balance' by Helen Pluut, 'Why should we (not) care about positionality?' by Alison Fischer, 'Maximising your research impact' by Paulien De Winter and 'Engaging with vulnerability, capacity and agency in research' by Ellen Desmet and Sara Lembrechts. Attendees gave enthusiastic feedback, noting that supportive connections were made in Ellen and Sara's workshop. Whilst Paulien delivered a refreshing take on impact by recounting her enjoyable and worthwhile engagement with media, from podcasts and documentaries to newspapers and television, Alison's workshop was a particular highlight for me. She led us through a deeply engaging group discussion on power, privilege and positionality. We considered and shared the extent to which our research was representative of our personal values, exploring the tension between ideals and disciplinary norms. And she teased out the ethics of representing a perspective in our research, highlighting the (un)conscious value judgements that determine how we collect and analyse data and which then regulate our presentation of findings.

The School finished with four presentations – spanning the role of the bystander in labour law to climate change litigation impacts – from attendees seeking constructive feedback from fellow researchers and experienced audience members, including VSR President Professor Danielle Chevalier (Leiden University).

Overall, the event was fascinating, inspiring and encouraging, fostering a sense of camaraderie within the sometimes-isolating PhD experience. The closing words from the organising committee – Dorien Claessen (Utrecht University), Eve Ernst (Vrije University Amsterdam), Kimia Heidary (Leiden University), Anne Janssen (Utrecht University) and Kaat Overmeire (Ghent University) – were warm, grateful and welcoming. They offered further collaboration through discounted VSR membership and the opportunity to help organise the next PhD School.

I am personally very much looking forward to next year's event, which will be hosted in Leiden, and would recommend the experience to any SLSA postgraduate!

SLSA membership benefits

- Three hard-copy newsletters per year and/or an e-version
- discounted SLSA conference fees
- a weekly term-time ebulletin
- eligibility for research, fieldwork and impact grants
- eligibility for Seminar Competition
- eligibility for SLSA prizes
- eligibility for international collaboration funding
- members' priority in newsletter publications pages
- discounted student membership (first year free)
- free annual Postgraduate Conference
- student bursaries for SLSA Annual Conference
- special membership category for retired members
- ... and much more. Visit [w website](#) for details.

SLSA GRANTS

The SLSA Board has announced the latest round of successful projects in our Research, Fieldwork and Impact Grants awards. We are also delighted to announce the first project supported by our new International Collaboration Fund. Visit the [website](#) for full details of the scheme and past and current projects.

Research Grants 2024

- Diamond Ashiagbor, Kent University, £1500, 'Reconceptualising labour law: race, legal form and the legacies of colonialism'
- Paulien de Winter, University of Groningen, £1500, 'Unravelling the paradox: investigating contrasts in administrative and criminal sanctions in the Dutch social security system'
- Cameron Giles, London South Bank University, £1155.80, 'Law in universities, law in society: exploring students' perspectives on LLB degree design and the role of academic legal education in England and Wales'
- Hannah Hirst, Sheffield University, £1500, 'Exploring gender diverse children's participation in clinical decision-making'
- Allison Holmes, Kent University, £1279.56, 'SQE-mish? The future of sexual offences in legal education'
- Jana Kujundzic, Northumbria University, £1500, 'Towards an abolitionist feminist framework in former Yugoslavia'
- Joshua Shaw, Kent University, £961.40, 'The legal somatics of bioart and bodily aesthetics'
- Pardis Tehrani, Sunderland University, £1500, 'Enhancing government responsiveness by overcoming legal challenges of AI-driven chatbots in the public sector'

Fieldwork Grants 2024

- Waruguru Gaitho, Cambridge University, £1000, '"To revolutionary type love": legal mobilization by Black lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ+) women and non-binary people in Kenya and South Africa'
- Saptarshi Mandal, Kent University, £1000, 'A jurisprudence of statues: caste, law, and public spaces in India'
- Ayesha Pattnaik, Oxford University, £1000, 'Concealed claims, contested citizens: a study of India's informal internal migrant workers'
- Dalia Saris, QMUL, £1000, 'A practice analysis of the symbiotic relationship between humanitarian security practitioners and private security companies in Nairobi'
- Atreyee Sengupta, SOAS, £1000, 'Rethinking feminist engagement with institutional anti-sexual harassment mechanisms: a study of university spaces in India'

Impact Grants 2023

- Maja Grundler, Royal Holloway College, £1500, 'From the university to the Grand Chamber: how can academic work on asylum and immigration have greater impact in the European Court of Human Rights?', Royal Holloway College, University of London, 9 May 2024
- Louise Hewitt & Ella Simpson, University of Greenwich £783.20, 'Getting on YOUR case: Basic Justice'
- Natalie Ohana, University of Exeter, £1500, 'The Grenfell Tower Inquiry: perceptions of the survivors,

bereaved families and North Kensington community', workshop series, May 2024

- Melanie Stockton-Brown, Bournemouth University, £1300, 'Tattooing in the archive: a zine exploring how cultural heritage institutions and changes to the law could support community tattooing archives'

International Collaboration Grant

- Michael Ashworth, Newcastle University, £1000, 'Exploring socio-legal methods and methodologies in studies of governance and regulation: conversations between LatAm and UK/European early career academics': a workshop to coincide with SLSA 2025 at the University of Liverpool

Research Grants reports

An oral history of securing the Northern Irish Border

Lynsey Black, Maynooth University, £1480

The project explored the history of cattle smuggling at the Irish/Northern Irish border and attempts to police this illicit trade. The research involved oral history interviews in addition to press and archival research. It was undertaken at a particularly poignant time, a century after the creation of Northern Ireland (NI) (and its border), and in the shadow of the 2016 Brexit vote. In this period, the histories of crime and criminal justice in the region assumed renewed significance – particularly in light of the difficulty of dealing with the UK/EU's only land frontier – and the provisions for trade at this boundary. These debates invoked fears of a 'hard border' and raised the spectre of a return to paramilitary violence in NI, as well as the possibility of renewed and large-scale smuggling.

The project pursued two key objectives: to unearth and explore personal experiences of policing the Northern Irish border, focusing on the perspectives of retired customs officers and policing personnel, as well as the experiences of persons involved in smuggling livestock across the border; to offer insight on the contemporary socio-legal landscape in NI by greater historical contextualisation.

The creation of a border in the early 1920s, conceived in a period of significant violence and unrest, formed a liminal space in which illegality has flourished over the century of its existence. Various scholars have explored the political violence in NI and the period colloquially known as 'the Troubles', much of it examining questions of transition and post-conflict challenges, but there has been less focus on the border itself as a site of crime and criminal justice. Inevitably, the inception of a border created the conditions ripe for smuggling. In an overwhelmingly rural region, and reflecting the customs tariffs imposed at the time, much of this smuggling related to livestock, and in particular cattle, and involved a very small-scale, quotidian variation of illegality.

The research has revealed the ways in which many small-scale smugglers differentiated themselves as ODCs (ordinary decent criminals) in contrast to the organised criminal enterprises and paramilitary groups operating along the border. The findings reveal the ways that religion and politics could be elided when there was money to be made, but suggests also that these fault lines were always at work under the surface. The research has also revealed the deep and ongoing silences which mark people's memories of this time.

Findings have been disseminated at SLSA 2023, Derry/Londonderry, and at a meeting of the Irish History Society, Boston College, Dublin, in December 2023. The findings are currently being prepared for publication.

Transforming social justice through activism

Suhraiya Jivraj, Kent Law School, £1500

Nourishing Ourselves, a **zine** published in the journal **feminists@law** explores the importance of using creativity as a way to reconnect to ourselves and our wellbeing at a time when many are expected to use our visual, oral, written, or other stories to 'shed light on', 'represent', or produce counternarratives to salvage our humanity. The zine asks what would happen if we had the time to create for the sake of tending to ourselves and each other. Reconnecting to the playfulness which makes creative expression possible, without forcing it into a 'product'.

Our publication comes out of a one-day workshop curated by artist **Alaa Alsaraji** and writer **Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan** commissioned by Dr Suhraiya Jivraj to develop a session for social justice activists using arts-based methods in their work. Our collective aim was to explore how activists' use of creative expression could transform social justice, including through building the capacity of participants. Through curation, the workshop that emerged was itself a reflection of the possibilities of co-production. Instead of focusing on using creative methods for social justice in an output-oriented way, the curators considered their own relationship to activism in their art, recognising that capacity to work for social justice was often depleted by the pressure to use creativity for those same ends. Instead, we therefore explored ways of working with creativity that would feel replenishing for us. This enabled a rare experience of facilitating without expectation of 'end-product' or extraction from participants. Instead of considering creativity as simply a tool, we curated a space to experiment, play and falter. For how are we to imagine, let alone build a just world, without reconnecting to the feelings that enable creativity in the first place?

We invite you to explore the zine, enjoy the artwork by participants, try the guided activities and share your reflections and scholar-activist creative expressions with us via this **padlet** or share via email to **e.s.jivraj@kent.ac.uk**.

Right to a fair trial in Brazilian appellate courts: a feminist perspective

Daniela Travaglia, £1000

The right to a fair trial (fairness) applies to all participants involved in judicial proceedings, including in the relationship between litigants, judges and lawyers, and the decision-making process itself. Feminist research has scrutinised the judicial decision-making process and gender diversity on the Bench. However, the power dynamics among judges in Brazilian appellate courts and their impact on fairness are yet to be scrutinised by socio-legal studies. This research fills this gap by investigating whether and how intersecting gender power relations amongst judges sitting in courts as a bench affect fairness and the court's impartiality. I draw on the concept of power as dynamic relations, feminist legal theory and intersectionality to explore these interactions. By analysing judges' experiences, this research aims to reveal how Brazilian appellate courts operate in practice, which intersectional gendered power inequalities are at play between judges and whether this has potentially significant consequences for the right to a fair trial.

The research is conceptually informed and empirically grounded, combining theoretical doctrinal analysis with qualitative data collection during a fieldwork trip, which involved semi-structured interviews with judges

working in appellate courts in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I took into consideration that legal elite members as judges may be skilled interviewers themselves, so it was important for me to provide a relevant framework. The interviews were designed to explore judges' views and attitudes and reveal their experiences and perspectives while keeping them sufficiently focused on the themes and questions developed during my desk-based research.

The SLSA grant provided the funds to travel to Sao Paulo in summer 2023 where I conducted 22 interviews. Overall, results suggest that the liberal concept of impartiality continues to dominate not only the law but also the views of research participants. As the fieldwork progressed, it also became clear that the experiences of female judges from minority ethnic backgrounds are invisible to their counterparts. This shows that intersectionality is an essential analytical tool for my research.

I am extremely grateful for the SLSA support for my fieldwork trip, allowing me to conduct the interviews with high-profile judges in Sao Paulo's appellate courts.

The Gold Rush in Scotland: mining nuggets of legal consciousness

Avi Boukli, University of Southampton, & Andreas Kotsakis, University of Kent, £1360

Academic literature has extensively covered how extractivism in South America, South Africa and Australia has resulted in conflict between mining companies and locals. However, until now research has not addressed this same trend in the West.

In the UK, despite primary and secondary legislation and policies on 'environmental management', tensions have emerged between mining companies, central and local government, and local communities. For example, in the Grampian Highlands at the Cononish gold and silver mine in Tyndrum, after early failed attempts to engage investors, in 2014 refinanced projects emerged that emphasised the affective dimension of Scottish gold, effectively romanticising the idea of gold extractivism. In addition, in 2013–2016, GreenOre was given permission to explore an area of 500km² near Towie, Aberdeenshire.

To investigate these developments, via legal consciousness-informed, mixed-methods research, the project team undertook a survey, two fieldtrips and semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders and local residents to ascertain how everyday life has been affected by commercial gold mining. They also asked participants to describe the extent to which legal mechanisms in this area have contributed to make sense of their experiences by drawing on legal categories and concepts.

Early findings suggested that participants had connected with the affective dimensions of extractivism, describing an exciting nature–human connection with local gold. However, they also described the legal framework as complex and labyrinthine.

In response, the researchers reviewed the legal and policy framework and pertinent academic literature. The findings were disseminated through the use of infographics and two academic publications, which introduced the concept of 'transversal harm': '**Transversal Harm and zemiology**' and '**Transversal harm, regulation, and the tolerance of oil disasters**'. A third publication will follow and an external application has been submitted to continue fieldwork in Scotland and internationally.

*A longer version of this report will be published on the **SLSA Blog**.*

Fieldwork Grant

Silicosis and the state: reframing contestations between capital and labour in contemporary India

Shruti Iyer, University of Oxford, £1000

My doctoral project, 'Silicosis and the state', focuses on a government welfare scheme that provides benefits to communities affected by hazardous working conditions that cause chronic and incurable occupational disease.

I began by tracing the moral economies of worker recompense, thinking through the fundamental questions of how the economic value of a life comes to be calculated, and what moral values come to bear upon how communities understand this. Broadly, I am interested in the entanglements between moral and economic value, and how these are contested and negotiated in the idiom of law.

I was awarded the grant in 2022, and I initially planned to constrain my study to the moral economies of the scheme as a function of how claimants understood and interacted with it. I quickly realised, however, that an important element of the scheme involves receiving a certified diagnosis of disease, and the ability to claim benefits rests entirely upon this medical determination. As a result, diagnosis became a significant point of contention between union members, activists and the state. I also had to adapt my research strategy to the hot summer and navigate several months where I did not have a reliable means of transportation or stable housing.

In total, I spent 15 months in the field, embedded in a trade union, and I also observed interactions at a community health clinic. I found that several moral values are mobilised and leveraged by different actors when interacting with recompense for occupational disease. These were articulated in terms of determining the 'legitimate' sufferer of disease; identifying who was 'responsible' for causing disease and who was to be held 'accountable'; and how union members and activists crafted solidarity between members by engaging with the temporal scales of 'benefit', in the short and long-term.

This project contributes to literature in medical and legal anthropology, focusing on how biological harm faced by informal workers is translated into state policy and how recompense for ill-health is understood on the ground. Specifically, I foreground how activists worked to mobilise the law to contest unsafe working conditions, exposing how informality is used as a device of capital accumulation. The law was also a means of forging enduring bonds of support between union members, and these findings contribute to socio-legal work on claim-making and welfarism.

My research on the relationship between chronic and infectious disease has already influenced ongoing work in the clinic where I did my research, and I hope that my findings will be of broader use to activists in India and scholars working on labour law from an empirical perspective. I plan to present some findings at the SLSA meeting this spring, as I work to develop this project and complete my doctoral thesis. The SLSA Fieldwork Grant was instrumental to being able to conduct extended participant observation, which is a time and resource-intensive method.

I thank the SLSA for its vital support and generosity in making these funds available to PhD students!

SLSA IMPACT FUNDING: OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited for our annual Impact Grants. Stream convenors can also apply for support for impact activities at any time under our Stream Convenor Impact Fund.

The Impact Grants scheme funds impact activities, including public engagement activities. All SLSA members (including PGR students) are eligible to apply for an Impact Grant of up to £1500. As with all SLSA funding streams, the funds must be administered by the applicant's research institution. Further to our widening participation strategy, a portion of this impact funding has been earmarked for members who are on precarious contracts. The next deadline is **31 May 2024**.

Recognising the important role that SLSA stream, theme and 'current topic' convenors have in acting as a focal point for bringing members together in key areas, the SLSA Board has made a limited amount of funding available to help create capacity-building and networking opportunities to develop pathways towards impact. A maximum of £1000 per activity is available. This is primarily intended to support involvement from non-academic partners. This is an open call and applications will be considered in advance of the next SLSA Board meeting which is on **16 May 2024**.

See [w website](#) for details.

Impact Grant

'Publish Not Perish!' An academic publishing podcast

Kay Lalor, Manchester Metropolitan University, and Zainab Naqvi, De Montfort University, £1475

At the start of your academic career what were you told about academic publishing? That it was important and necessary? That you should publish or your career would perish? And what were you not told? What did you wish you had known from the start?

We were awarded a 2022 SLSA Impact Grant to explore these questions and more through our podcast project 'Publish Not Perish'. The podcast was devised as a series of conversations between scholars at different stages of their careers, focusing on centring minoritised voices. In each episode, we sit down with an experienced editor and minoritised ECR to discuss themes ranging from the politics of knowledge production; to the biases towards 'global north' scholars and topics of study; to the emotional toll that research and writing takes on us; to the practicalities of getting published. The podcast challenges the gatekeeping that can leave minoritised scholars or those located outside of 'global northern' academic networks in the dark about crucial ways to negotiate the processes of the academic publishing machine without losing their voices or their courage.

SLSA funding meant that the podcasts could be produced with the help of a professional producer and editor. We were able to create a number of 'proof of concept' podcasts to a high standard, designed to be as accessible as possible to scholars in as many locations as possible. With the help of our guest editors, and the SLSA, we hope to have started a much longer conversation about publishing, knowledge production and academic justice.

Look out for more information on 'Publish Not Perish' coming soon on the [SLSA Youtube channel](#).

SLSA IMPACT INITIATIVE: DEMYSTIFYING IMPACT

The SLSA now runs two impact funding schemes: Impact Grants and Stream Convenor Impact Funding. However, impact can be a slippery concept, so, here, the chair of the SLSA Impact Committee, Mitchell Travis, offers a short explanation of what impact means in this context.

What is impact?

Impact is about research having some demonstrable effect outside of academia. It occurs where change is 'produced'. In law we tend to see impact as stemming from legislative or policy change – but this is, perhaps, a little narrow. The ESRC, for example, has a much more expansive view noting that impact can be on the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment and quality of life. But this list does not make the prospect of 'doing' impact any less intimidating. How do we make that happen and how might funding help?

Importantly, for the SLSA the funding sought has to be related to academic research. Either the beginning of new research or as part of an ongoing project. It cannot be used to develop or publicise teaching materials.

This fund is ideal for starting your impact journey

Good impact starts with listening to, responding to and engaging with the needs and desires of the communities and stakeholders that are being researched. Policy development can come after! But it's important that the foundations are built right.

An important aspect of the SLSA's impact fund is that it doesn't have to be for people with long-established and impressive impact track records. There's other funding available for them! If you want to get a project off the ground and talk to some stakeholders about the type of research you should be doing, then this fund might be for you. Taking this approach means you're less focused on the huge impact that your project might have in the

future and more about establishing small and meaningful connections with people in your field – some of whom are outside of academia – or to creating pathways of engagement with the people affected by your research.

Consulting with target communities and stakeholders from the outset of the initial design stage is essential. Impact is thus embedded into your project because it's driven by the needs of communities. Their needs can then inform the types of changes you might then go on to recommend.

The fund is also great for those further on in their impact journey

This fund is not only geared towards those applications which support exploratory and tentative networking proposals. If you have already started to have some impact success then you may want to think about how you can gain even more traction by using this fund.

Think carefully about how this can be done, however. For example, a podcast may not be the best way to create engagement with your target audiences. Why not instead have a workshop to feed findings back to community members and/or policy-makers? Have you considered making a policy brief for the institutions that you are trying to target? Can you make pamphlets aimed at empowering the communities you are working with in terms of their legal knowledge? Could any or all of these things be co-produced with third-sector organisations? These are the types of initiative the SLSA is actively seeking to fund.

If you are further on in your impact journey, be realistic about what can be achieved with a relatively small budget and a limited timeframe. Remember that we are happy to support incremental efforts that are likely to open the door to greater and more demonstrable impact. As with all SLSA proposals for funding, value for money will be a key consideration.

If any or all of these sound like something you would be interested in, then please do apply to the impact fund this year. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **31 May 2024**. In addition, SLSA stream convenors are eligible to apply for impact funding on a rolling basis by submitting an application to be discussed at any of the three regular Board meetings (in January, May and September). See [w website](#) for details of this scheme.

Finally, the SLSA Impact Committee will be hosting an Impact Awareness event in Portsmouth at lunchtime on day two of the SLSA Annual Conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

Social and Legal Studies

Volume 33(2) April 2024

Who is the addict-offender? A historical ontology – Simon Flacks

Indigenous anti/deportation: contesting sovereignty, citizenship, and belonging in Canada and Australia – Karl Gardner

Justice in English-only – Joseph van Buuren

The work of acknowledgment: 'loud fence' as community-level response to institutional child sexual abuse testimony – Dave McDonald

Children's legal geographies, and the 'make-believe' of property – Elsa Noterman & Nicholas Blomley

Analysis of the Colombian Constitutional Court's transformative approach to conflict-related sexual violence – Isabel Inguanzo & Angélica Rodríguez Rodríguez

Registering time in recognising torturous harm: figuring the single, plural and historical in torture's adjudication – Ergun Cakal

people . . .

JOHN FLOOD has been appointed Research Professor in Law and Society at Griffith University, Australia. John was a member of the then SLSA Executive Committee from 2002–2007, serving as Honorary Secretary for four of those years.

Former SLSA Chair, Professor **SALLY WHEELER OBE**, has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Birkbeck, University of London. She took up the post on 1 January 2024. Sally said: 'Birkbeck has a unique place within the fabric of UK HE and I am excited to have the opportunity to lead it as it enters its third century. It offers the things that everyone who works in higher education should value – opportunities for students that they cannot get elsewhere, a commitment to access and diversity, and research of exceptional quality.'

Supporting legal participation for LIPs

Recent Nuffield Foundation-funded research has identified how legal participation can be understood and supported for litigants in person (LIPs) in the family justice system in Northern Ireland.

The project builds on earlier Nuffield Foundation research in 2018 on LIPs in Northern Ireland (NI), identifying the barriers to legal participation for people going to court without a lawyer and how this can jeopardise the right to a fair trial. The barriers were defined as intellectual (not understanding the process or issues), practical (not being able to get help to navigate the system), emotional (feeling overwhelmed by the demands of court proceedings) and attitudinal (being stereotyped as problematic).

The 2023 research was designed to address some of these issues. Recognising that overcoming attitudinal barriers was critical for LIPs to be supported to participate, the research explored whether human-centred design would be an effective means of developing empathy between LIPs and court actors, by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to develop practical tools for assisting LIPs going through family proceedings.

The core finding was that this approach challenged thinking, shifted perspectives and developed empathy and understanding, while the design process generated practical solutions to the knowledge gap, leading to the creation of an **information website** and **pathfinder tool** for individuals involved in family proceedings. These were described as 'nigh on perfect' by court officials, and the NI Department of Justice has commissioned the research team to maintain the website until 2025.

The second aspect was to define the operational requirements of the right to participate, mapping empirical data from interviews and observations with LIPs and other court actors against the legal requirements of the right to a fair trial (article 6(1) ECHR), which encompasses the right to participate. This revealed a range of experiences showing what participation, or barriers to it, look like in practice.

These 'descriptors' of legal participation were validated through a sub-set of empirical data, through a judicial workshop and through Q methods, a socio-legal research methodology that uses qualitative and quantitative data to study subjectivity, identifying commonalities and differences in opinion on a particular topic. The focus was on what was considered most important for legal participation, based on the descriptors. The data was used to identify five perspectives on LIPs' legal participation and to examine each in turn. This led to a refined set of 10 descriptors setting out practical measures for meeting the legal standard of participation to prevent breaches of article 6. They cover each stage of the litigation process, from finding and understanding court forms, to ensuring LIPs understand what is happening in their hearings.

As well as exploring the effectiveness of Q methods, the research makes a number of practical recommendations to address the continuing need for cultural change, including the development of a Practice Direction (the NI equivalent to Procedural Rules for litigation) to establish consistency in cases involving LIPs; an *aide-mémoire* for court officers and judges to be used during a case to help ensure a litigant is able to participate effectively; and an audit of the justice system to identify where the risks to article 6(1) ECHR are.

The research reports, summaries and policy briefings (2018–2023) are all available on the **w website**.

Gráinne McKeever, Lucy Royal-Dawson & John McCord,
School of Law, Ulster University

Campaign for Social Science: call for new Board members

The Academy for Social Science (AcSS) Campaign for Social Science is seeking to appoint a small number of new members to serve on its Advisory Board. The Board supports the Campaign in its work to showcase and promote the voice of social science in policymaking, the media and beyond academia. To ensure the Board reflects the rich diversity of UK social science, the AcSS actively encourages applications from social scientists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, early/mid-career researchers, those with a disability, and those from an ethnic minority background. See **w website** for details. Closing date: **15 March 2024**.

Centre for Socio-Legal Studies Visitors' Programme: open for applications

Academic visitors are an important part of the Oxford Centre's activities and visitors are invited to become integrated into the intellectual and social life of both the Centre and the university. All visitors are entitled to make full use of the university's research facilities and libraries, in addition to attending seminars, lectures and other academic gatherings. Visitors are encouraged to make contact with others in their field, both in Oxford and in the wider academic community, regarded as full members of the Centre's vibrant community and invited to join in the weekly seminar programme. Visitors should have a clear research project to pursue while at the Centre; participate in seminars and workshops at the Centre and give presentations where appropriate; and be fully proficient in the use of written and spoken English at an academic level in order to derive full benefit from the programme. See **w website** for full details. Closing dates: **22 March** and **5 July 2024**.

AHRC funding schemes open for applications

Standard Research Grants

The AHRC invites Standard Research Grant proposals for well-defined collaborative research projects that require leadership from more than one researcher. Awards can be between £300,000 and £1.5 million with a maximum duration of five years. See **w website** for details. Closing date: **26 March 2024**.

Curiosity Awards

Applications are invited for these flexible awards to fund fundamental research that leads to new research agendas, networking activity and idea generation which enables the development of further research opportunities and new research agendas. Awards are available for projects up to £100,000 and up to five years in duration. See **w website** for details. Closing date: **30 April 2024**.

Future Leaders

Applications are invited from early career researchers who are looking to establish or transition to independence or developing their own original and ambitious plans within a commercial setting based at an eligible institution. There is no minimum or maximum project cost and projects can last for up to four years, with the option to apply to renew for a further three years. See **w website** for details. Closing date: **18 June 2024**.

Law Teacher of the Year Award: SLSA members on shortlist

The Oxford University Press Law Teacher of the Year Award is the only national award to recognise and reward all-round law-teaching excellence. This year's shortlist includes SLSA members: Foluke Adebisi, University of Bristol; Norah Burns, Queen's University Belfast; and Ruth Flaherty, University of Suffolk. See [w website](#) for details. The winner will be announced on **14 June 2024** at the Celebrating Excellence in Law Teaching event.

Coming soon: Nuffield Foundation Racial Diversity 2048

This new grants programme will explore the influence of migration and ethnic diversity on present-day UK society and its future trajectory, and improve understanding of pathways to a racially inclusive and just society. The year 2048 marks the hundredth anniversary of the British Nationality Act 1948 and the arrival of HMT *Empire Windrush*. See [w website](#) for updates.

Daphne Jackson Fellowships

Daphne Jackson Fellowships are retraining fellowships for anyone who has taken a break of two years or more from research for family, caring or health reasons. By combining a personalised retraining programme with a challenging research project, held in a supportive UK university or research establishment, these fellowships provide a vital opportunity for those looking to return to a research career. See [w website](#) for details. This is rolling fund with no closing date.

British Academy funding schemes

Women and Climate Action

The British Academy is inviting proposals on women and climate action from researchers based in a number of countries including the UK. The is to support ODA-eligible international research collaborations between humanities and social sciences researchers. See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: **10 April 2024**.

International Fellowships 2024

The International Fellowships Programme enables researchers to work for two years at a UK institution with the aim of building a globally connected, mobile research and innovation workforce. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **13 March 2024**.

Additional needs funding

The British Academy has set aside specific funding to support additional needs that applicants and award holders may require. This funding would be in addition to the amount already requested for research expenses. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Some examples of what may be considered for this funding are: specific equipment to overcome barriers to people with disabilities undertaking research; assistance to allow applicants living with sensory impairment to carry out their research; bids for the cost of child, parent or other caring responsibilities may be considered if the carer is conducting research away from home and it is not possible to make alternative arrangements.

See [w website](#) for details. This is rolling fund with no closing date.

KEEPING SOCIAL SECURITY LAW AND POLICY UNDER CRITICAL REVIEW

Neville Harris and Gráinne McKeever, editors of the Journal of Social Security Law (JSSL), reflect on the 30th anniversary of the founding of the journal and outline its ongoing mission.

The JSSL, a peer-review journal with both a UK and international focus, commenced publication in 1994 at a time when the growth of interest in the subject area, which had begun to develop in earnest in the 1970s, had led to this becoming an established and vibrant field of legal and socio-legal research.

The journal's mission to penetrate into and critically assess the legalities, mechanics and operation of this part of the welfare state has reflected the scale, complexity and social importance of social security and the need for a discrete focus on this area of law and policy. Importantly, this focus also extends to the administrative justice issues surrounding individual claims and appeals; after all, social security appeals comprise the largest jurisdiction, in terms of case numbers, across all the UK's administrative tribunals. JSSL's content places it squarely within socio-legal territory, with articles ranging from theoretical to empirical analyses as well as more doctrinal approaches (for example, around developing case law or new legislation). Each issue also contains a digest of legislative, policy and case law developments to help those who want or need to do so to keep abreast of the developing 'black letter' law, government policy and independent reports, for example, by advisory and select committees and think-tanks.

To mark – and celebrate – JSSL's three decades of existence we have designated our first two issues in 2024 as 30th-anniversary issues. We are delighted that so many leading scholars in the field have accepted our invitation to contribute papers, offering both UK and international perspectives. The articles in issue 1, which is in press at the time of writing this, comprise:

- Do benefit sanctions have a future? – Michael Adler
- Automation and conditionality: towards 'virtual' social security? – Terry Carney
- Age as a condition of entitlement to social security: changing ideas over thirty years – Jackie Gulland
- Procedural legitimacy logics within the digital welfare state – Simon Halliday, Jed Meers & Joe Tomlinson
- Privatizing social security – Amir Paz-Fuchs & Avishai Benish
- The changing perceptions on benefit recipients in Dutch social security policy in the past 30 years – Frans Pennings

Submissions invited

Over the years JSSL has published a number of papers based on presentations at SLSA Annual Conferences, particularly from the Social Rights, Citizenship and the Welfare State stream. We are always very pleased to receive submissions – articles, case analyses or book reviews – from fellow SLSA members! See [w website](#) for submission details. JSSL is published by Sweet & Maxwell and is on X/Twitter: [@JSocialSecurity](#).

Neville Harris, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Manchester, & Gráinne McKeever, Professor of Law and Social Justice, University of Ulster.

JLS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SOCIO-LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP

Half a century ago a small collective of Cardiff University academics, in association with an enterprising publisher – Professional Books – produced the first issue of the Journal of Law and Society (JLS). Here, JLS Editor Professor Phil Thomas takes a look back over the journal's long history and introduces the anniversary Special Issue.

Volume 1, comprised of two issues, was a slim publication, as it began its ongoing journey to fulfil its stated purpose. It was intended to reflect, encourage and support those UK academics, primarily lawyers, who felt constrained by those delineations that identified the orthodox academic legal syllabus, acceptable legal research and what was considered appropriate and publishable legal scholarship.

However, youthful, enterprising scholars wanted more and sought alternative pathways. But they also needed a publishing vehicle to carry their different – sometimes radical or even heretical – ideas and findings. The JLS was custom-made for this purpose.

Journals can only publish what is submitted and considered appropriate. They are essentially reactive, but can also decide to be stimulating. One thematic article has the capacity to generate further work, and even submissions. Today, for example, papers on topics such as artificial intelligence or specific global developments promote further papers from other scholars working in those areas. Previous waves of popular activity include regulation and medical law. However, the JLS has always been proactive in seeking out what is new and also encourages young scholars.

Moreover, youth is the future of this journal, indeed for all journals. The JLS has funded post-doctoral scholarships, underwritten PhD places for SLSA conferences and supported, financed and been involved in socio-legal

training programmes in the UK and overseas, and we continue to make our contribution to future scholarship as best we can.

The character and composition of JLS authorship has changed. Since the foundation of the SLSA in 1990, there has been a long history of engagement and involvement with the organisation and its growing membership (now around 1600). International contributions have increased tenfold, and the authorship gender balance also reflects a major shift. Readership has become truly global. The journal today, of 1000 pages each year, is published by Wiley in four issues, alongside a Special Issue organised by our associate the Centre of Law and Society.

The anniversary Special OA Issue reflects the personal choice of Editorial Board members. Each of us has selected a favourite paper within a specific timeframe. Thus, there is no corporate line that seeks to reflect the nature and purpose of the journal over 50 years.

We know busy people are selective in their reading decisions, so our collective choices are unlikely to reflect your special interests, but we hope that you dip into our personal favourites, keep reading the journal, check out our website and, in the future, hopefully write for the JLS.

See the JLS [website](#) for further details and the submission process.

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'We can't help you, it doesn't concern us': the legal consciousness of young people seeking asylum in Sweden who report violent crime – Hannah Scott
A bloody mess? UK regulation of menopause discrimination and the need for reform – Sue Westwood

Executive robbery: UK public law, 'race' and primitive accumulation in the Chagos Archipelago – Tanzil Chowdhury

Key book in my education: Hegel's *Phenomenology of the Spirit* – Mariana Valverde

Critique of Comparative Law – Peter Goodrich

The Journal of Law and Society in context: a bibliometric analysis – Jen Hendry, Christian Boulanger & Naomi Creutzfeldt

Book reviews

Litigants in Person and the Family Justice System, Jessica Mant – Jane Krishnadas

Law's Memories, Matt Howard – Luigi D A Corrias

EcoLaw: Legality, Life and the Normativity of Nature, Margaret Davies – Juan Auz

Journal of Law and Society

Special OA 50th Anniversary Issue 2024

The Journal of Law and Society in context: a bibliometric analysis – Jen Hendry, Christian Boulanger & Naomi Creutzfeldt (2024)

A critique of American tort law – Richard L Abel (1981)

Blaming the jury: frauds on trial – Michael Levi

Converting terrorists: the use of supergrasses in Northern Ireland – Paddy Hillyard & Janie Percy-Smith (1984)

The economic sociology of labour law – Ruth Dukes (2019)

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Interdisciplinarity and the discipline of law – Douglas W Vick (2004)

On being able to walk twenty metres: the introduction of personal independence payments – Peter Alldridge (2019)

'Fk this game ... I'm off': financial and emotional factors in declining legal representation in miscarriage of justice cases** – Amy Clarke & Lucy Welsh (2022)

'On the perimeter of the lawful': enduring illegality in the Irish family planning movement, 1972–1985 – Emilie Cloatre & Máiréad Enright (2017)

BOOKS

***Fighting Climate Change through Shaming* (2023)**

Sharon Yadin, Cambridge University Press £17 102pp

In this book the author contends that regulators can and should shame companies into climate-responsible behaviour by publicising information on corporate contribution to climate change. Drawing on theories of regulatory shaming and environmental disclosure, it introduces a 'regulatory climate shaming' framework, which utilises corporate reputational sensitivities and the willingness of stakeholders to hold firms accountable for their actions in the climate crisis context.

***Jurisprudence and Socio-Legal Studies: Intersecting Fields* (2024) Roger Cotterrell, Routledge**

£130hb/£36.99pb 252pp

This book explores key intersections between jurisprudence and socio-legal studies, which are otherwise typically considered distinct fields. It discusses fundamental theoretical issues in socio-legal research, its current scope, and its historical traditions. It also profiles European jurists whose work offers important insights for socio-legal inquiry. Key chapters examine the history and likely future of interactions between jurisprudence and socio-legal research. Internationally oriented, the book addresses students and researchers in jurisprudence, legal philosophy, sociology of law, socio-legal studies and comparative law.

***Leading Works on the Legal Profession* (2023) Daniel Newman (ed), Routledge**

£130hb/£29.24eb 276pp

This collection provides an innovative and engaging way of assessing the development of legal profession scholarship and its potential future development by presenting an analysis of the 'leading works' of the discipline. The book was written by prominent and emerging international scholars in the field, with each contributor having been invited to select and analyse a work which has for them shed light on what the legal profession is and what it does.

***Spectacles and Specters: A Performative Theory of Political Trials* (2022) Başak Ertür, Fordham University Press**

\$105hb/\$30pb 272pp

Spectacles and Specters draws on theories of performativity to conceptualise the entanglements of law and political violence, offering a radical departure from accounts that consider political trials as instrumental in exercising or containing political violence. Ertür argues instead that making sense of the often incalculable interpenetrations of law, politics and violence in trials requires shifting the focus away from law's instrumentality to its performativity.

***South-South Migrations and the Law from Below: Case Studies on China and Nigeria* (2023) Oreva Olakpe, Hart**

£76.50hb/£61.20eb 224pp

This book explores the narratives and experiences of people in the Global South as they encounter the impact of international law in their lives. It looks specifically at approaches to international migrations and the law, as states in the Global South confront migration-related challenges. Taking a case study approach, drawn from the experiences of undocumented and displaced migrants in China and Nigeria, the book shows how informal justice systems not only exist but are upheld.

***Sovereignty, International Law, and the Princely States of Colonial South Asia* (2023) Priyasha Saksena, Oxford University Press**

£90hb 272pp

What constitutes a sovereign state in the international legal sphere? This question has been central to international law for centuries. This volume provides a compelling

exploration of the history of sovereignty through an analysis of the jurisdictional politics involving a specific set of historical legal entities.

***Law, Registration, and the State: Making Identities through Space, Place, and Movement* (2023) Jess Smith, Routledge**

£130hb/£29.24eb 138pp

Critical legal and socio-legal scholarship tends to assume that registration is a textually mediated act of statecraft which governs through the technology of writing. Taking a different approach, this book develops movement as socio-legal method to illustrate the legal, social and bureaucratic layers of movement which unfold in everyday engagements with the law. The book presents empirical and theoretical analysis of historical, contemporary and future-oriented places of registration: a community hub, a city of pilgrimage, and the General Register Office.

***Rethinking Drug Laws: Theory, History, Politics* (2023) Toby Seddon, Oxford University Press**

£90hb 224pp

Drugs are pervasive in our everyday lives across cultures around the world. At the same time, they present one of the thorniest problems of twenty-first century policy, connected with concerns about crime, security and public health. The global prohibition system, established a century ago, is widely seen to be failing and over the last decade alternative approaches have started to proliferate in some regions of the world, notably the Americas. *Rethinking Drug Laws* presents a radical intellectual reappraisal of how the international drug control system works, where it came from, and the possibilities for alternative futures.

***What Is a Family Justice System For?* (2024) Mavis Maclean, Rachel Treloar & Bregje Dijksterhuis (eds), Hart**

£81hb/£30.95pb/£30.95eb 288pp

Does a justice system have a welfare function? If so, where does the boundary lie between justice and welfare, and where can the necessary resources and expertise be found? In a time of austerity, medical emergency and limited public funding, this book explores the role of the family justice system and asks whether it has a function beyond decision-making in dispute resolution. Might a family justice system even help to prevent or minimise conflict as well as resolving dispute when it arises?

***Social Citizenship in an Age of Welfare Regionalism: The State of the Social Union* (2023) Mark Simpson, Hart**

£81hb/£30.95pb/£30.95eb 316pp

This book presents a socio-legal examination of national and devolved-level developments in social protection in the UK, through the eyes of politicians and officials at the heart of this process. It reflects on the impact of austerity, the referendum on Scottish independence and subsequent changes to the devolution settlement, Northern Ireland's hesitant moves away from parity with Westminster in social protection, Brexit and the possible retreat from austerity during the Covid-19 pandemic.

***Supporting Legal Capacity in Socio-Legal Context* (2023) Mary Donnelly, Rosie Harding & Ezgi Tascioglu (eds), Hart**

£81hb/£30.95pb/£30.95eb 336pp

This collection brings together leading international socio-legal and medico-legal scholars to explore the dilemma of how to support legal capacity in theory and practice. Traditionally, decisions for persons found to lack capacity are made by others, generally without reference to the person, and this applies especially to those with cognitive and psycho-social disabilities. This book examines the difficulties in establishing effective and deliverable supported decision-making, concluding that approaches to capacity need to be informed by a grounded understanding of how it operates in 'real life' contexts.

- **HOW CAN WE PREVENT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE? A 10-YEAR VISION**
19–20 March 2024: *The Studio, Riverside West, Leeds*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **HOW TO GET A PhD IN LAW**
20 March 2024: *IALS, London*
Theme: ‘The PhD journey — supervision, research ethics and preparing yourself for upgrade and vivas’. See [w website](#) for details.
- **ACCESS TO CLIMATE/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FROM A DECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE**
20 March 2024: *online from Anglia Ruskin University*
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **UK SALSA INAUGURAL MEETING**
25 March 2024: *IALS, London*
Organised by the UK South Asian Legal Scholars Association.
See [invitation](#) for details of this in-person event.
- **CHILD MIGRATION AND THE GEOPOLITICS OF COMPASSION**
3 April 2024: *QMUL, Mile End Road, London, and online*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **PROPAGANDA AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: INFORMATION SOCIETY PROJECT**
5–6 April 2024: *Yale Law School, New Haven CT, USA*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **REIMAGINING THE PUBLIC–PRIVATE DIVIDE**
12–13 April 2024: *University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **HOW TO GET A PhD IN LAW**
17 April 2024: *online from IALS, London*
Theme: ‘The PhD in law and research methods’. See [w website](#) for details.
- **THE JURIDIFICATION OF JUSTICE: POTENTIALS AND LIMITATIONS**
18–19 April 2024: *University of Exeter*
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **LAW NETWORK DOCTORAL CONFERENCE: COERCION AND WELL-BEING IN EUROPE**
6–7 May 2024: *Nantes Université, France*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **WRITING WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH**
6–7 May 2024: *Singapore*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **FROM THE UNIVERSITY TO THE GRAND CHAMBER**
9 May 2024: *Royal Holloway, University of London*
Theme: ‘How can academic work on asylum and immigration have greater impact in the European Court of Human Rights?’
See [w website](#) for details of this SLSA Impact Grant event.
- **RACE, LEGAL FORM AND THE LABOUR CONTRACT**
9 May 2024: *UCL Faculty of Laws, London*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **REFORMING THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY ACT 1990**
10 May 2024: *Birmingham Conference & Events Centre*
Theme: ‘Workshop on posthumous conception’
See [w website](#) for details.
- **HOW TO GET A PhD IN LAW**
15 May 2024: *online from IALS, London*
Theme: ‘Researching, disseminating and publishing’. See [w website](#) for details.
- **DEEPFAKES AND THE LAW**
20 May 2024: *City, University of London, Northampton Square Campus*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING 2024**
6–9 June 2024: *Colorado Convention Center, Denver CO, USA*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **IN THE THICK OF IMAGES: LAW, HISTORY AND THE VISUAL**
10–11 June 2024: *University of Lucerne, Switzerland*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SHIFTING DYNAMICS IN MEDICAL LAW: NEW SPACES, TEMPORALITIES AND ACTORS**
19 June 2024: *Manchester Metropolitan University*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR DEMOCRACY**
26–28 June 2024: *Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **KAFKA’S IMPRINT ON LAW AND THE ARTS, 100 YEARS SINCE *THE TRIAL***
July 2024 (tbc): *University of Southampton*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES vs FOOD SUSTAINABILITY: CALL FOR PAPERS**
3–4 July 2024: *School of Law, Queen’s University Belfast*
See [announcement](#) for details. Call closes: 31 March 2024.
- **WG HART WORKSHOP 2024: ‘HISTORICISING JURISPRUDENCE: PERSON, COMMUNITY, FORM’**
26–27 June 2024: *IALS, London*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **IVR WORLD CONGRESS 2024**
7–12 July 2024: *Seoul, Republic of Korea*
Theme: ‘The rule of law, justice and the future of democracy’.
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW IN AN AGE OF PERMACRISIS**
16–17 July 2024: *Keele University*
International Roundtables for the Semiotics of Law Annual Roundtable 2024. See [w website](#) for details.
- **INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ETHICS CONFERENCE**
17–19 July 2024: *University of Amsterdam, Netherlands*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **IS THERE HOPE FOR EQUALITY LAW?**
26–28 July 2024: *National Law School of India, Bangalore*
11th Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Conference. See [w website](#) for details.
- **WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY 2024: SAFI ROUNDTABLE ON WOMEN IN LEGAL PHILOSOPHY**
1–8 August 2024: *La Sapienza, Rome*
See [w website](#) for details.
- **RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW (RCSL) CONFERENCE 2024**
3–6 September 2024: *Bangor University, North Wales*
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **SOCIAL HIERARCHIES IN CATASTROPHIC TIMES**
3–7 September 2024: *Kochi, Kerala, India*
Theme: ‘International law, critique, and structural change’.
See [w website](#) for details.
- **FÉMINISME, DROIT ET CITOYENNETÉ II/FEMINISM, LAW AND CITIZENSHIP II**
8–10 September 2024: *University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris*
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **HUMAN RIGHTS IN MIGRATION SOCIETIES**
18–20 September 2024: *Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany*
Theme: ‘Exploring the intersection of human rights and migration in law, politics, and everyday life’. See [w website](#) for details.
- **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR LEGAL HISTORY: CALL FOR PAPERS**
24–26 October 2024: *San Francisco, USA*
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 15 March 2024.



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University of Portsmouth
26-28 March 2024

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